

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1523 without my signature.

The argument about whether a “superstore retailer” belongs in a neighborhood is a daily occurrence in many California communities. Adding a new hurdle, approval of an economic impact report prior to approval of a development project that includes such a retailer, will only limit the authority of local communities to decide what kind of retail projects they want to embrace. As is often the case, a “one size fits all” approach from Sacramento will take away choices that communities have to decide whether a particular development fits their communities.

I am unable to support this bill that effectively sends a message to retailers and others that California is “closed for business.”

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger